

## Report to the 2020 OFHS AGM re 2019 activities

This report covers the calendar year 2019 but it impossible not to mention the sad loss of our President, Dr Hugh Kearsey, during this (2020) year. The Society owes a huge debt to Hugh for his work over many years.

People came and went during the year, perhaps a few more than usual, certainly a few more than we would have liked. We started the year knowing that we would be losing the services of Steve Pickthall, our Treasurer. Fortunately Mike Walker stepped forward after a meeting in the Exeter Hall so that was one problem solved. Then Angie Trueman found her dream retirement home more quickly than we had anticipated. At the end of March they were off to Devon and we needed a new Secretary and Fair Organiser. Fortunately John Cramer stepped in for the latter role, having already been significantly involved in organising our Fair. After some transition arrangements, Gay Sturt agreed to move into the Secretary role. We were also pleased to be able to co-opt Tim Emptage onto the Executive committee.

A major exercise was undertaken during the year- the process of specifying and selecting a partner for a new web site. This came to fruition during 2020 but occupied numerous people, especially Christopher Fance and Sue Honoré as well as James Honoré who undertook the bulk of the spadework in moving material from the old site to the new.

Liaison with the Oxfordshire History Centre continued and the scanning of the Minn and Buckler photograph collections got underway. It is worth noting that late in 2019 the past (and major) project of scanning Oxfordshire Parish Registers turned into profit and is now producing useful income for both the Society and the History Centre.

Other projects continue of course. Transcriptions (and rekeying of old transcriptions) proceed under the direction of Wendy Archer. Graveyards have been crawled tirelessly by our various recording groups under the direction of Alan Simpson.

Sue Honoré has produced three more first class journals as well as progressing the surname and DNA projects. The DNA project continued to grow with 392 members by the end of the year and the surname project team made progress towards the publication of a book and single surname summaries as well as in its transcription work of surname lists of Oxfordshire.

The Society made two major donations during the year, each of £5,000. One was to the Victoria County History for Oxfordshire and the second was to the Historic Towns Trust for the work being done to produce a book of historic mapping of Oxford City.

Our Fair went smoothly and was well received by all who attended (from both sides of the tables). We attended three major Fairs during the year - in London, Birmingham, and Bristol.

We held meetings in the Exeter Hall in most months, all well received by those able to attend. For these we thank the organisers and, of course, the various speakers. The computer group panel underwent some changes during the year –Angie Truman moved away and both Alex McGahey and Alan Simpson have stood down. Others were being recruited to the panel at the end of the year but subsequent (2020) events have resulted in major changes (including name) to this group, but that's for the 2020 report.

Malcolm Austen, Chairman.